Recommendations of the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Forest Division

The proposal submitted by the User Agency for diversion of 4.61 Ha of Forest land in Kesarkuli Reserved Forest (4.42Ha) and Thirumalvadi Reserved land (0.19Ha) of Palacode Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of road from Seengadu to Alakkattu via Erimalai village to a length of 6.384kms and a width of 6.00m from Seenkadu to Erimalai and 5.00mtr width from Erimalai to Alakkattu.

In the alignment of the proposed road, The admitted right of way is Three Yards mentioned in the Fort St. George Gazette, Page 831, Dated. 28.06.1892 of Kesarkuli Reserved Forest.

The formation of Seenkadu to Alakattu via Erimalai to a length of 6.384kms. In that 6.279kms falls in the Kesarkuli Reserved Forest which is recently declared as the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary and the portion of the road is already excluded from the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary vide G.O.(Ms).No.193 Environment, Climate Change & Forests (FR.5) department dated.7.11.2022 and the remaining length of 105mtrs of the proposed road falls in Thirumalvadi Reserved land which is outside the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary and falls within the default Eco sensitive zone of 10km radius.

The proposed road connects Seengadu, Alakkattu and Erimalai villages. Until now there is no any other alternative road for them to drive vehicles. This is the long-lasting demand by the village peoples for the past ten years. This demand has also been raised in the Legislative Assembly often.

The project proponent has given undertakings to bear the cost of Net Present Value, Additional Net Present Value, Compensatory Afforestation with maintenance and lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation in future for the forest land to be diverted etc. The work will be permitted after strict supervision of Forest Officers. Possible damage to wild flora and fauna due to this project is very low.

The width of the road from Erimalai village to Alakkatu village is proposed to 5mtr as the carriage way requires 3.75mtr along with sufficient drainage facilities (Justification has been furnished by the User Agency)

Considering the above facts and field observations, I recommend this proposal for seeking diversion of land.

Dharmapuri 21st January 2025 District Forest Officer,
Dharmapuri Forest Division,
Dharmapuri.

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